

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1502

June 21, 2013

COMMITTEES:
HEALTH, EDUCATION,
LABOR, AND PENSIONS, CHAIR
APPROPRIATIONS
AGRICULTURE
SMALL BUSINESS

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

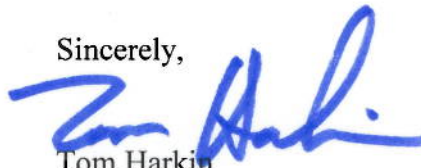
I am writing to express my full support of Governor Terry Branstad's request for a Presidential Disaster Declaration for 48 Iowa counties where significant damage was sustained from damaging winds, tornadoes, heavy rains and thunderstorms resulting in severe flooding beginning May 19, 2013 and continuing through June 23, 2013. Approval of the Governor Branstad's request would provide relief under the Public Assistance program for 48 counties as well as Hazard Mitigation assistance throughout the state.

On May 19th, communities throughout Iowa began to brace for a storm system that was expected to bring several days of severe storms. Damaging winds, tornadoes, heavy rains, and thunderstorms resulted in severe flooding beginning on May 19th through June 23rd, causing significant damages to public infrastructure and private property. Floodwaters hampered emergency response efforts, county roads suffered extensive damages, bridges were overtopped and washed out, businesses were affected, and residents were evacuated and displaced from their homes.

A preliminary damage assessment of the 48 counties estimated that this event has caused over \$22 million of damage to essential facilities and services. The adverse impact of Iowa solely funding the response and recovery to this disaster would certainly overwhelm the State's economic resources. Therefore, supplementary federal assistance, as specified in the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act is essential for a successful recovery.

Iowa has seen its share of disasters and FEMA's assistance to date is greatly appreciated. Again, I respectfully request that this relief be granted so that Iowa may quickly recover from this disaster. Thank you for your prompt attention to this request. If I can provide any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Tom Harkin
United States Senator

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Craig Fugate, Director
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20472

Dear Mr. Fugate:

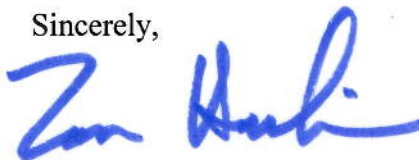
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